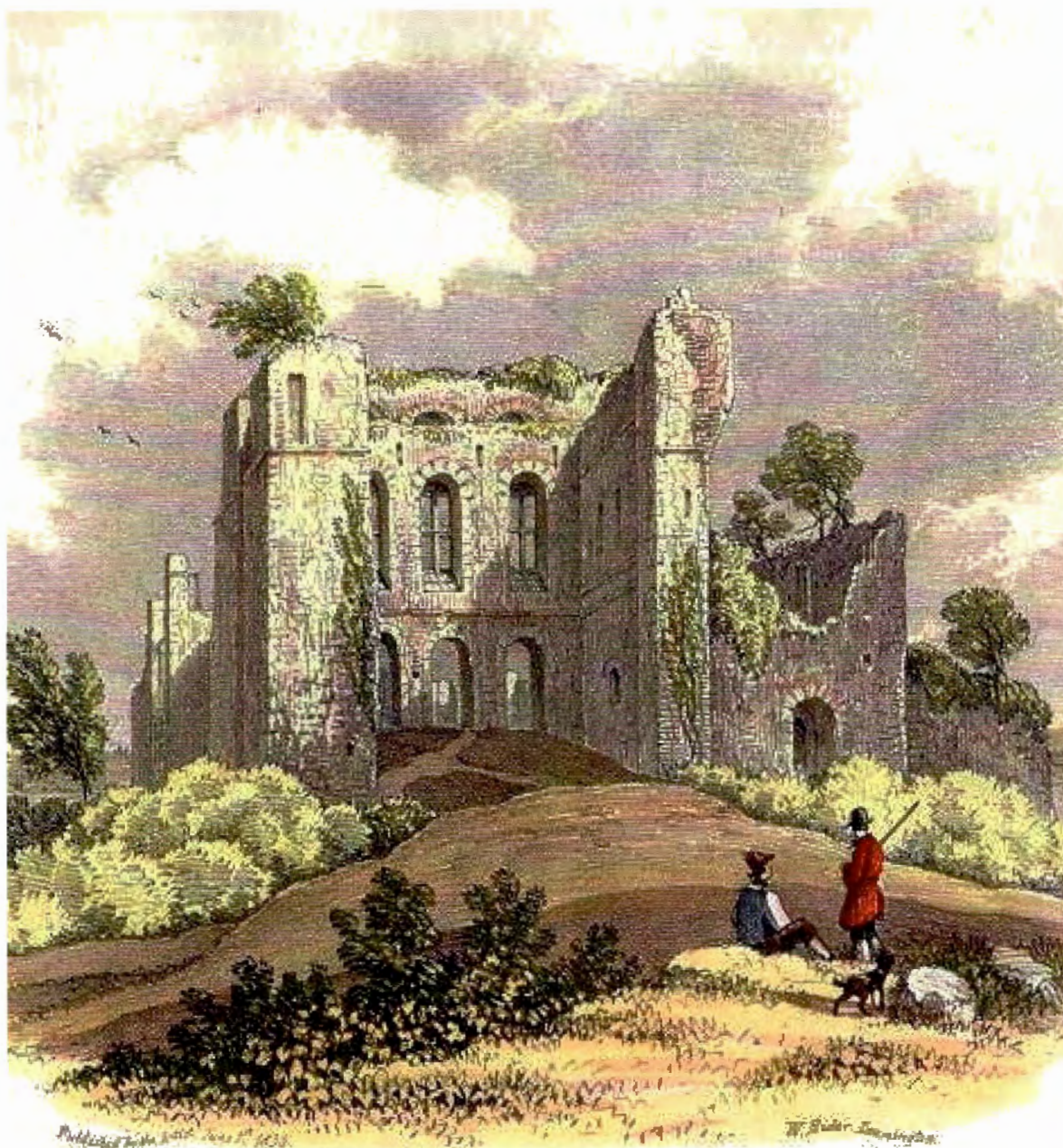


# THE "CONDER" TOKEN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR'S CLUB

Volume XIII Number 2 Summer, 2008 Consecutive Issue #48



KENILWORTH.

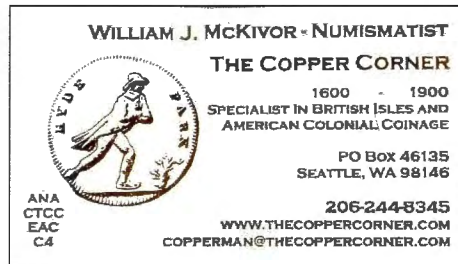
THE RUINS OF THE CASTLE.

## BILL McKIVOR—CTCC #3.

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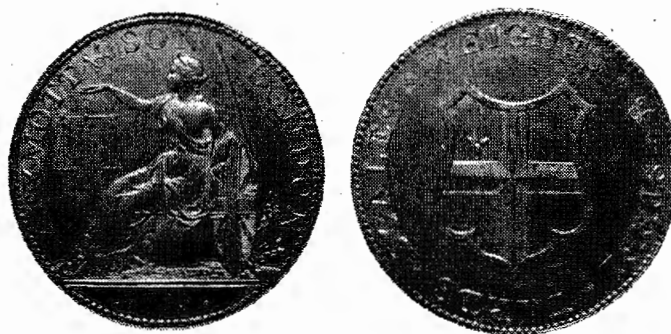
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**Middlesex 378  
Image by Gary Groll**

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**GOOD MONEY BY GEORGE SELGIN NOW AVAILABLE**

Dr. George Selgin's new book GOOD MONEY Birmingham Button Makers, the Royal Mint, and the Beginnings of Modern Coinage, 1775-1821 is now available for purchase. Excerpts from the book have been previously published in the Journal and it is sure to be of interest to many of our members. George may be contacted at [selgin@uga.edu](mailto:selgin@uga.edu) for more details and purchase information.

**BRITISH TOKEN CONGRESS IN SEATTLE SPRING 2009**

It is not too early to make plans to attend this landmark event in our hobby. The first ever Token Congress to be held in the U.S. is being coordinated by Bill McKivor for May 2009. Bill's article on page 27 provides the latest details.

**VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER NEEDED**

The club needs a volunteer to revise and maintain our website [www.conderclub.org](http://www.conderclub.org). I have been the club webmaster for several years but am now cutting back some of my activities. I am sure several members have much more advanced skills than mine and could provide an up to date dynamic site for the club. Please contact me if you can help the club increase its presence on the internet.

**THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL**

Original articles are always needed for publication in the Journal. I am always happy to help anyone develop an idea or put the finishing touches on an article. You do not need to be a Conder scholar to write an interesting, informative article and become a published author.

**ON THE COVER**

"Kenilworth, Caesar's Tower from Clinton's Green" drawn on stone by W. Rider, printed and published by the Artist, Leamington, June 1835. Stone lithograph, with recent hand colour." Image courtesy of antiqueprints.com.

Caesar's tower is featured on Peter Kempson's private token Warwickshire 6 (page 21). In this issue Harold Welch presents an excerpt from an 1896 lecture by W.J. Davis on *Old Tokens of Warwickshire* complete with illustrated plates. The detailed lecture discusses 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> century tokens and begins on page 5.



# Old Warwickshire Tokens

BY W. J. DAVIS

*Excerpted from a presentation to the  
Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society  
26<sup>th</sup> February, 1896.*



THE subject of Numismatology has such extensive ramifications, that it would be impossible to treat it at large within the limits of a paper. Its range extends to almost pre - historic antiquity; for by its aid peoples and kings which were before unknown to the historian have been discovered, and doubts as to identity and origin set at rest. Manners and customs, religious observances, and many other features in the life of ancient peoples, are revealed to us in their coins and medals. No wonder that the study has its enthusiastic devotees, who marvel at the indifference of the many, and think that even antiquaries do not give it the attention which it deserves.

I have to deal with part of the subject only – that which belongs to the County in which we live. Fortunately, the part thus selected has a special and peculiar interest-for this audience at least-on account of the important share which Birmingham has had in the modern development of our national coinage.

## 17 CENTURY TOKENS.

In considering the Tokens of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, it is always to be borne in mind, notwithstanding their abuse, that they were intended to circulate as money, and were called forth to supply a want. Modern times have been so plentifully accommodated in the matter of small change, that no conception can be given of the inconveniences endured in olden days for the want of it. It has already been demonstrated that, from the Conquest to the reign of Charles II., there was no coinage proper lower than a silver piece. The silver penny of olden times meant, of course, much more than the bronze penny of today, and the people lacked the facility of small money, or a circulating medium that should represent fractions of a penny. Eventually that want was met by the issue of private *tokens*. Grocers, Vintners, Chandlers, Ale-house Keepers, and others, gave change in their own pieces, which generally were made of brass, tin, lead, and even leather. As, this apology for a coinage was only valid at the shop from which it was issued, the inconvenience to the poor may be easily imagined. The British Solomon – James I. – tried to meet this abuse by granting a patent to Lord Harrington, to coin farthing tokens of copper, which

became known as “Harringtons” and “Half-Harringtons”; but, although the King commanded the people to honour this currency, they circulated with difficulty. One peculiar abuse cropped up in connection with these “Harringtons.” Wholesale buyers could purchase them at the rate of 21/- for 20/- ; and , in consequence, workmen’s wages were frequently paid all in halfpence and farthings, the employers pocketing the profits. Moreover, they were so extensively counterfeited, that at last everybody got shy of taking them; and a “Petition of the Poor” was presented to the House of Commons, complaining that “there was no exchange for their farthings, to their great damage; even to their utter undoing.” Nothing was done during the Civil War to meet this evil, and private tokens made their appearance again. What we know of the 17th century tokens extends from the latter part of Charles the First’s time to the middle of Charles the Second’s.

The tokens of this century are very small and mean in appearance, and, as may be supposed, are anything but works of art. Those of Warwickshire are fair samples of the whole, so that a description of their general features will apply to all. It is thought by some that they were struck with the hammer and punch, in much the same make-shift way that the ill-fated Charles I. was driven to in his troubles, moving from place to place, and taking his moneyers with him, who struck his siege coins out of pieces of old plate. The earliest of the Warwickshire tokens is dated 1651), two years after his execution, and when Cromwell was at the height of his power; and the latest is 1671, when Charles II. had been king for 11 years. Our county shows 195 tokens, from about 150 issuers; some few of the tokens being varieties of die from the same issuer, which accounts for the discrepancy.

Coventry, which was then the most important place in the county, has 45 pieces; Birmingham comes next, with 24; and Warwick third, with 20. They are all halfpennies and farthings; there being 105 halfpennies and 90 farthings. Coventry had some special privileges as to coining, and so there were *City* tokens bearing the City Arms – an Elephant and Castle. But besides these of Coventry there were other official or semi-official tokens, *viz.*, from the Chamberlains of Tamworth, and the “Bayliffe” of Hemlingford Hundred. The others were issued by tradespeople, such as Mercers, Grocers, Victuallers, Cordwainers. Pewterers, &c. In Coventry and Rugby, we have Weavers and Feltmakers; in Griff and Merevale, the Miners’ calling is depicted. Many indications take us back to the quaint old life of the period. Thus, one issuer described himself on his token as “*Marcer. and. Grocer. At. The. Sugar. Lofe.*” recalling the times when every shopkeeper had his sign. There was no standard for spelling in those days. As Sam Weller said, it all depended “on the taste and fancy of the speller.” A man’s name might be spelt very differently on each of his varieties of token, if he had more than one. The same play of fancy was indulged in with regard to the names of places. Thus, we have “*Kenton,*” for Kineton; “*Noneton,*” for Nuneaton; “*Darraton,*” for Deritend. Sometimes, when the simple artificer could not get all his inscription on one side of the token, he continued it on the other. One piece has on the obverse – “*Lvke. Barrow. Felt.*” and on the reverse – “*Maker. In. Rvgby.*” Another has on the obverse –

"Rob. Whinicke, Pipe.", and on the reverse, "Maker. In. Warrwick." One or two Issuers show their wit in punning devices. Thus, William Reynolds shows a *fox* on his token; "Samvell Tissall" – a *thistle*. The use, or excuse, for the issue of such pieces is expressed on two of them – both official ones: One is inscribed – "For. necessary. Chaing."; the other – "For. Chainge. and Charitie." (Plate II., 20 and 21.)

The Birmingham tokens are full of interest, bearing as they do the names of many who in various ways link the past to the present. There is William Colmore, supposed to have been a mercer in the Bull Ring; George Fentham, a fellow tradesman in the same place; Robert Smallbrooke, a mercer in Corn Cheaping; Thomas Pemberton and Thomas Russell, both ironmongers or merchants, in the Rother – or Beast – Market, High st.

Occasionally an unpublished piece makes its appearance and causes quite a flutter among collectors, who at once set themselves the task of diving into the archives of Antiquity to discover all about the issuer of the token.

Since this paper was read the Author has become the fortunate possessor of an interesting token issued in the 17th century by Henry Hodgits, of Birmingham. It is the only Warwickshire token with an emblazoned shield of arms. (Plate II., No. 22.)

The "Merry Monarch," Charles II., sought to put down this surreptitious private coinage, and ordered the issue of halfpence and farthings "which should contain as much copper *in weight* as should be of their true intrinsick value respectively." These pieces were not so cumbrous as might be supposed, as copper then was a much more precious metal than it is now. Notwithstanding this measure, salutary though it was, private tokens continued to be issued, till they were stringently put down, and we hear no more of them for a hundred years.

It was very curious – this grudging and imperfect way of meeting the public convenience, on the part of the ruling powers. Montague says: – "It had always apparently been considered by the reigning Sovereigns that the coinage in the inferior metals was a subject beneath their dignity." Only under great pressure did they condescend to supply their subjects with necessary small money. All such, even when coined at the Royal Mints, still continued to be called *Tokens* and they were counterfeited wholesale, until, at one time, in the reign of George II. it was computed that nearly one half of this currency was base, and shopkeepers refused to receive any – good or bad. Still the evil of counterfeiting grew and grew. Meetings were held in Birmingham and all over the country; petitions were got up; and every effort was made to stop the pernicious practice, which caused so much loss to the poor. It appears that this crisis, "*with full public approval*," traders began to issue private tokens again, which are what we know as the "18th Century Tokens." These were different from the ancient ones of lead, latten, and leather; and even from the later but still insignificant ones of the 17th century.

## 18TH CENTURY TOKENS.

A contemporary reviewer, writing in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, said "Excepting the coins of the Romans, there has nothing occurred parallel to these within so short a period, since the eras of the independent States of Greece, when almost every city had its distinct coinage." the writer was supposed to be Thomas Wright, of Dundee, a famous collector and issuer of tokens. He also wrote the preface for the *Virtuoso Companion*. (Plate I., No, 17.) This eulogium was deserved; and the excellence that called it forth was in a great measure due to Birmingham. It must be remembered that these were the palmy days of the gilt button trade; and that such buttons, which were not only the fashion but the rage, were got up regardless of expense, and with a rivalry between manufacturers as to artistic treatment and finish. A volume might be written about these and other kindred productions of the time, which was distinctly an era of Art manufacture; our great townsman Boulton being one of its earliest and ablest pioneers. (Plate I., No.2.)

In the hoards of token Collectors many names and features of old local worthies are perpetuated. While the most part of these tokens were for *use*, they were also availed of as a medium for advertisement. In some cases, no doubt, a tradesman or employer, who was in a sense an issuer of his own money, would think it perfectly legitimate to put his own head on his coins, instead of that of his Sovereign. As illustrating the statement in "The Token Coinage of Warwickshire" – that "the history of a country, and of its people, may in some degree be read in its tokens" – one or two instances may be given. One of the largest among the token-issuers of the last century was John Wilkinson – "the father of the Iron Trade." He appears to have been as much a Napoleon in his special walk as Boulton was in *his*. Indeed, it might be said, that as Boulton was necessary to Watt, so Wilkinson was necessary to them both; and that the era of Steam Power owed as much to the inventive skill of the Broseley ironmaster, as it did to the business capacity of the Soho manufacturer, or to the genius of the Scotch philosopher. Watt found in Wilkinson "the very man he wanted." He it was who discovered the way to bore cylinders and to perfect other parts so as to make Watt's ideas *possible*. Telford speaks of him as "The great John Wilkinson, king of the Ironmasters." Wilkinson coined for the use of his Works tokens which were considered as good as money anywhere. There were issued no fewer than 66 distinct varieties of copper halfpenny tokens, besides a few silver ones representing 3s. 6d. each. But numismatists note very small differences, arising from the use of more than one die. A die may get broken, or become worn. However clever or careful a die engraver might be, there would be sure to be some slight difference which could not escape the keen eye of the Collector, and make a sub-variety that would be valuable to him in proportion to its rarity. As there are no two human faces alike so there are no two dies exactly the same. On all these pieces the bust of the old ironmaster adorns the obverse, while the reverses have designs, the principal among them bearing some reference to his trade; such as the interior of a forge, and the figure of Vulcan. Some have the representation of an *iron ship*, which class of vessel he was the first to build and



launch, amidst the incredulity and ridicule of all the world. One piece has on the reverse – done no doubt for some wag of the period – the somewhat irreverent inscription: – “And he said – Let us make pennys after my own image.” There is another token bearing John Wilkinson’s “image and superscription,” but which belongs more to Dr. Priestley, who married Wilkinson’s sister. It represents the doctor placing a fool’s cap on the head of a man designated by the inscription as “John Nott;” a *nom de plume* assumed by a scribbler of the period, one of Priestley’s detractors.

Wilkinson’s tokens were engraved by Hancock, and struck at the Soho Mint (Plate I., No. 13.) The famous Lunar Society, which met alternately at each member’s house once a month, when the moon was at full to light them home, contained such names as Watt, Boulton, Wedgwood, Sir Humphrey Davy, and John Wilkinson.

Several numismatic mementos exist of Priestley. In *Aris’s Gazette* of August 4, 1783, there occurs the following announcement: –

“This day is published, in gold, silver, and bronze, taken from the life, and executed by J. G. Hancock, Birmingham, an elegant and striking medal of Dr. Priestly, the reverse of which represents some of the Doctor’s newly invented experimental machinery.” (Plate I., Nos. 3 and 4.)

There is no need to speak of Dr. Priestley’s history to a Warwickshire audience, but those who know it best will best appreciate these mementos of the man, the art, and the time. Another such memento is of a man equally prominent in his own way – the poet Freeth. There is only one variety celebrating him, but that is curious and interesting. On the obverse is the bust of the quaint old worthy in his cocked hat: within an oaken wreath on the reverse is inscribed: –

“Britons behold

The Bard of Freedom plain and bold,

Who sings as Druids sung of old.” (Plate II.) No. I.)

Another token is interesting because of its reminiscences of Old Birmingham. It is that of one J. Allin, who kept a noted corner shop, in a noted neighbourhood, just a century ago. His token advertises: – Allin’s panorama. Grand Exhibition. Admit 1/–” ; and on the other side this anti-climax: – “Cheap clothes and York shoe warehouse wholesale and retail. I. Allin, Haymarket, Birmingham, 1796.”

The Haymarket, which was also called Mount Pleasant, was the open space at the top of New Street; and Allin’s panorama and cheap clothes shop was on the site now occupied by the Council House. (Plate II., No. 11.)

The Poor-Law Authorities of Birmingham issued in 1788 a token in copper and brass for 2/6 ; on the obverse of which is represented a mendicant receiving alms; but the work is poor, and it is not known if the female figure in the act of giving alms to the beggar is intended to be emblematical of Birmingham. Copper pieces were issued by the same authority; for 1/6 in 1795,

and for 1/- in 1798-9; the former with a beehive and bees for the obverse, and the latter with the bust Nelson. (Plate II., Nos. 15 and 23.) Early in *this* century the Overseers also issued *paper* money for £5, £1, 5/-, and 2/6; and one in *leather* for 5/-.

George Barker, a solicitor, and an eminent numismatist, enriched the cabinets of collectors by issuing some private tokens of a classical character; one of his pennies bearing the head of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham (Plate III., No. 8); and another the bust of "Diva Britannia." (Plate III., No. I.) A halfpenny has the head of Mercury, with a reverse charged with a pyramid in ruins, and a fallen statue; typical perhaps of the flight of Time. (*A unique specimen in silver is submitted for inspection.*) (Plate I., No. 5.) Mr. Barker's – son Geo. Hollington Barker – added a beautiful private token, representing a richly-robed female figure, suspending the emblem of Justice, and standing in a sunken oval; with a shield on the reverse; the crest being a demi-Moor. (Plate I., No.9.)

All these tokens were by Hancock senior, or junior. Young Hancock executed a fine bust of Shakespeare, and another of "Sir Original" in a long wig. Who Sir Original was is not known. Young Hancock is said to have been only 9 years of age at the time; and Pye, who described and engraved these tokens in 1801, writes that both the father and the persons for whom they were made declared that the dies were actually the work of this precocious boy. (Plate II., No.3.)

Bisset, the publisher of the "Magnificent Directory of Birmingham," a work well known as of great merit, with a "Poetic Survey" (of which it would be as dangerous to express a favourable opinion as to sing the praises of the present Poet Laureate) issued three tokens, advertising what he called his "Museum," a curiosity shop in New Street, just below the Theatre. The penny is one of Wyon's neatest productions, but unfortunately it is very rare. (Plate I., Nos. 1 and 6.) A trial piece by Hancock is very interesting, and it represents the interior of his workshop at Soho. Jacobs, who kept a shop near the Welsh Cross, and who on his token holds a pair of tea scales behind a counter, was also a dealer in iron- mongery, an engraver, chaser, and auctioneer. (Plate III., No. 11.) Two pugilists, who appear to have fought for the championship of England, come in for special representation. Perrins, one of the combatants, was employed at Soho, and was reported to be the strongest man in England. The Union Mill, as early as 1796 issued tokens on which was the emblem of unity and a cornucopia of wheat, within a wreath of wheat ears. The Company was called "The Birmingham Flour and Bread Company," whose object was to sell bread at cost price; and the tokens were used between the holders of shares.

Debating and other Societies had their tokens, as also did the Yeomanry. (Plate II., No.2, and Plate III., Nos. 4, 5, and 6.) Wm. Hallan, of the Bull Ring, dealer in China and who kept an "intelligence office for masters and servants," issued 9 tokens, 3 of which bore busts of George III., David Garrick and himself. (Plate III., No. 14.) Wyon designed and executed, for Kempson, 27 of the principal buildings of Birmingham, and one of the reigning monarch. This was when the town had a seventh of its present population, and the pieces recall a picture of the city when it

was only giving promise of its present greatness. By themselves they form an interesting collection, and include the Old Cross – once the Town Hall –which stood where Nelson's Monument now stands (Plate II., No.5), and the Old Meeting Chapels, that remind the inhabitants of this city of the surging mob who so shamefully hunted down the man to whose memory they have since erected a statue – the great Dr. Priestley. The Soho manufactory, erected 1764, with its trees in the foreground, and the new Brass Works (1796), emitting dense smoke from its chimneys, show the commercial character of the times.

The Masons had their token, bearing their own arms and motto. (Plate II., No.4.) The Mining and Copper Companies caused tons of half-pence to be coined. The obverse of their token bore a female figure supporting the emblem of unity, and on the reverse appears a stork, resting on a cornucopia. (Plate I., No.7.)

Charles Pye's token was emblematical of Industry, with the legend, "The support of Britain." (Plate III., No. 13.)

In the early days of truck pieces were issued by employers for various values; and provisions, &c., were exchanged for them. One such was used by the colliery proprietors at Bank-lands, Bedworth, as early as 1769; and one later, at Wyken Colliery. Many of these tokens were the work of Halliday, who engraved for Thompson and other makers. It was at Halliday's that Peter Wyon worked after he left Boulton's, and where William Wyon was taught his trade.

The buildings of Coventry, from the designs of Sharp, were engraved by Wyon. There are 19 different tokens, and the work is deeper cut than those of Birmingham. The arms of the city form the reverse for all. Coventry being the oldest city of Warwickshire, and one of the most ancient in the country, lends to the subject greater historical interest; and when an illustration is being examined, such as the remains of the Cathedral, the last relic of the monastic pile founded by Leofric, Grey Friars and Spou Gates, Bablake Church, St. Michael's, and St. Mary's Hall; one is apt to throw the token aside, for the charm of the chronicler, with his fuller powers, to transmit the light of antiquity and to keep the past in memory green. (Plate II., No. 10.)

Percy, of Coventry, commissioned Hancock to execute a penny token with the bust of Philemon Holland for an obverse. There were three reverse dies; one with an open book supported by two other volumes. The open book is inscribed: –

"With one sole pen I wrote this book;  
Made of a grey goose quill;  
A pen it was when I it took,  
A pen I leave it still."

(Plate III., No. 2.)

Philemon was usher to the Free School in 1608, and was presented with the freedom of the city in 1612. He translated Camden; and is said to have written the M.S. of the "Romanes Histories" throughout with one pen. Sharp, who was a hatter, and carried on business in Peeping Tom's house, gave to collectors a token by Jorden, which for appropriateness and beauty is not excelled by any in the whole series, either of this or any other county. On the obverse is seated a richly robed female figure, her right elbow resting on a civic sword, and her left hand supporting a shield charged with the arms of Coventry. At her feet are a Mitre, Crozier and Mace; in the distance is a view of Coventry. On the reverse the house of Peeping Tom with his figure projecting from one of the windows: the "King's Head" adjoining. (Plate II., No. 9.)

Nixon, another antiquary of the time, issued a half-penny with the three-quarter bust of John Hales, founder of the Free School in 1543. In one variety Hales is holding a sealed document, and in another a book. The reverse of both is a view of the Free School. (Plate II., No. 13.)

Wyon executed the Penny Token of St. Michael's with reverse interior of the Chancel, but who issued it is not known, and but for the Edge being inscribed "Coventry token" it would be regarded as a Medal. (Plate III., No.9.)

Meriden gives an archery token, bearing the crest of the Prince of Wales, over the bow, quiver, target, and bugle. An archer drawing a bow occupies the field on the reverse. (Plate II., No.7.) A reviewer in the "Athenæum," last September, writes: – "Under Meriden we find a token which is, we believe, one of the Archery prizes of the Society known as the 'Foresters of Arden,' which descends from an old Foresters' Guild." A Newton half-penny was struck for John Webb. It has on the one side a wool-pack, and on the other a shield of arms. Kempson published a token of Kenilworth, which has the Cæsars' Tower for its obverse; and the words "Warwickshire Promissory Penny" on the reverse. Stratford tokens appropriately give prominence to the profile of the Immortal Bard. Tamworth has its Church, Castle, and Town Hall, well represented on pennies and halfpennies engraved by Hancock. (Plate II., No. 14 and Plate III., No.7.) John Harding, calico printer, has his name and calling in compartments on one of these; and the Rev. C. Blick, a numismatist, issued the Church and Castle token. Warwick gives us 2 political pieces, called the "Greatheads" and the "Loggerheads," both satirical of the Priestley controversy. (Plate I., No. 8 and Plate III., No. 12.) These were by Westwood, who also engraved the dies for the Birmingham half-halfpennies, and all the half-halfpence of other towns. (Plate II., No. 17.)

A Birmingham poor-house halfpenny, bearing the name of "J.Alston," appeared in 1796; and although it says on it – "Payable there," there is no record in the Overseers' books of any authority for its issue. (Plate II., No. 12.) Clark, a chemist in Bull Street, had his token, and it was one of the prettiest. On the obverse Britannia is crowning a bust of George III. with laurel. The reverse has an oak tree and ships at sea. (Plate III., No. 15.) Mrs. Eves, Mrs. Pope and Miss Eves, of the Crescent, had their token, which was presented to the young ladies attending their



school. This Mrs. Eves was authoress of "The Grammatical plaything." Samuel Garbett, a man who raised himself from a brassworker to become one of our earliest local legislators, is immortalised by Hancock on a "trial piece" of the period. (Plate II., No.6.)

In 1811 silver tokens were issued by Local Authorities, Bankers, Mill-owners and others, to supply a silver currency, which the Government had grossly neglected. Mr. Lane, the occupier of a wool-comber's mill, at Bedworth, issued a shilling – "payable at Bedworth Mill," (Plate I., No. 14.) The Overseers of Birmingham again appeared with tokens for 2/6, 1/-, and 6d. Edward Wright, a grocer and tea dealer, of Bull Street, used a half-crown of his own, shewing a Chinaman standing between tea-chests; the Arms of the De-Birmingham family forming the reverse. (Plate I., No. 15.) These were the only silver pieces used in Warwickshire. Thomas manufactured many of them, as also a *gold* 40/- piece for Mr. J. B. Monk, a banker at Reading.

Among the most noted and the best work in the copper tokens of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the Birmingham Overseers' *sixpence*, weighing 5oz.. 3dwt., with the Workhouse and the Arms of Birmingham. A pattern penny of the same design) by Wyon, also deserves special mention for its excellence of execution. Sir Edward Thomason, in 1811, paid his workpeople with pennies made in his own works. The Union, Crown and other Copper Companies, made tokens for general convenience, but they were matter-of-fact kind of productions, without pretence to artistic attainments, and the great bulk of them were the work of Halliday. Jones, by 6 beautifully engraved dies, emblematical of "Vile," "Changeable," "Noble," "Poetic," "Slow-and-Furious Love," redeemed the period to some small extent from its Spartan character.

Wm. Booth, the notorious forger of bank notes, and maker of false money, was not without his token. It is said that he struck the Perry Barr penny to cover his illicit arts in forging and die-sinking. He was tried and found guilty of forgery, and was executed at Stafford on August 15, 1812. His token is rare; and some one has issued a spurious example of the forger's art; but although the latter is of fine workmanship, the differences of die are easily discernible to the keen eye of the expert collector.

Sir George Chetwynd's penny, with his bust and a view of Grendon Hall (Plate III., No.3) ; and a halfpenny bearing his Arms – the former by B. Wyon and the latter by Halliday – were the latest private tokens of Warwickshire, except the "Centenary Buildings," published in 1895. It was from Sir George Chetwynd's famous collection that Thomas Sharp, commissioned by the Baronet, compiled his celebrated catalogue; a copy of which has only this year been added to the Birmingham Reference Library, at a cost of 6 guineas.

All tokens intended to be used as money were suppressed by the Government on July 5, 1813; and none have since made their appearance.

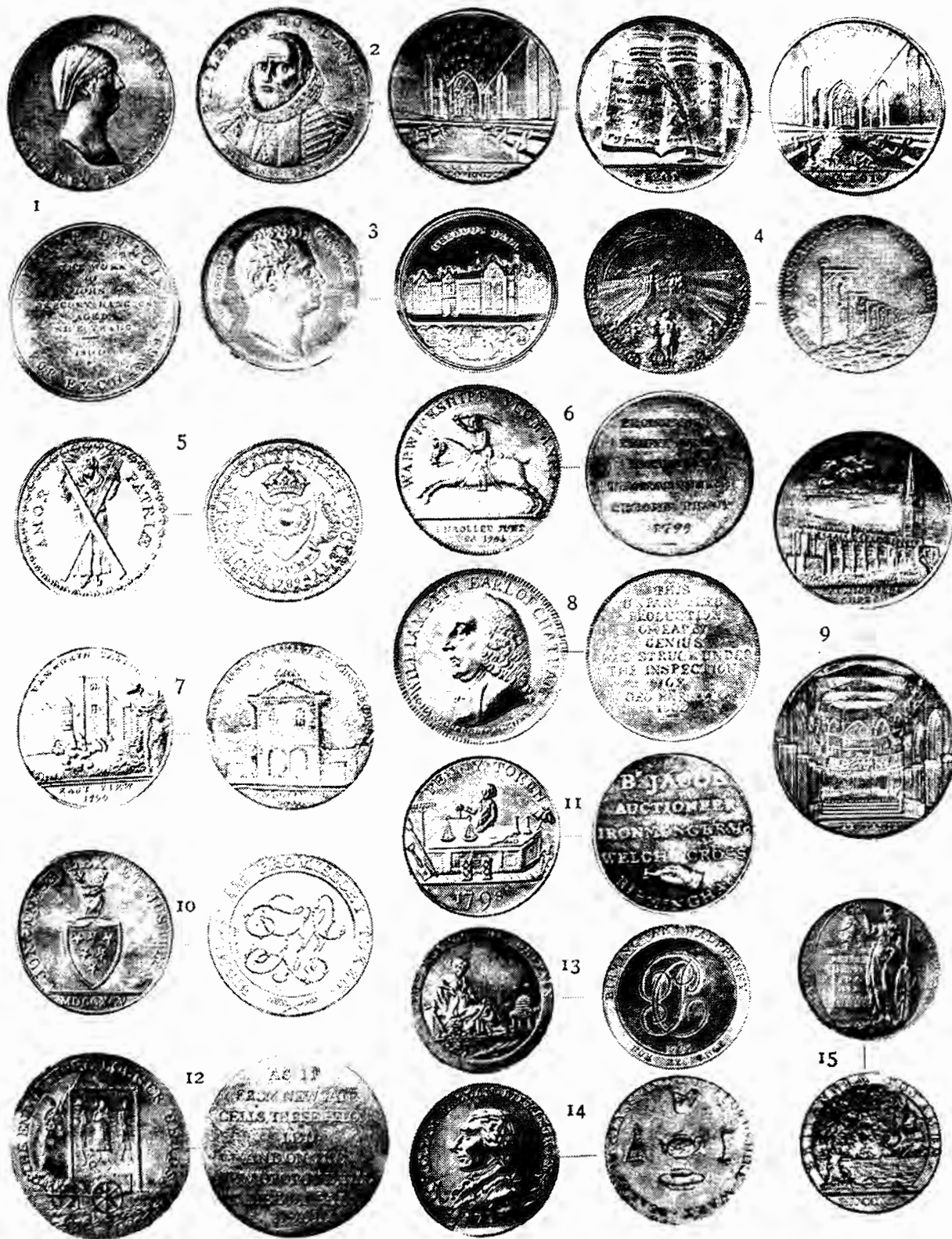
# Plate I



## Plate II



# Plate III





## A THOMAS SPENCE SILVER COUNTERSTAMP

Harold Welch and Alan Judd

Hello Alan,

Congratulations on your excellent article about Spence's countermarks in the last issue of the journal. I own 5 or 6 examples of Spence's fascinating little propaganda pieces and would love to add more to my collection. To think that each was hand struck by Spence and in some cases tossed from his window in his impassioned lifelong pursuit of his "Plan" to transform all of society! These little mementos to a grand, if hopeless, dream make me feel close to Spence and the times in which he lived.

I am amazed and envious at the depth of your collection. It would seem that in his fevered determination that Spence produced a significant number of these pieces. In his *Notes Respecting the Issuers of the Eighteenth Century Tokens in the County of Middlesex*, Arthur W. Waters writing about Spence countermarks states, "I once had in my collection about 300 of these pieces." My examples are fairly routine with no phrases not mentioned in your article. I do, however, have one piece struck on a silver blank. I have attached scans for your review.

Struck on what appears to have been a silver shilling worn thin and retaining no traces of it's previous design, the piece reads "SPENCE'S PLAN OR WAR FOREVER". On the left of the inscription is a charming, tiny figure of a prancing horse with it's tail held high. Maybe it's Spence's way of depicting what the world would be like after the implementation of his plan? Jerry Bobbe says that he is sure that he has seen the horse stamp before, but can't remember where. The reverse was not stamped with another slogan (likely because the flan is too thin) but there are three small stamps. Near the edge is an 'X' (or Roman numeral 10), near the center is a very small star and towards the other edge is a small rectangular stamp that perhaps frames three initials with the center one being 'N', but I'm not sure of that.

I acquired the piece at last year's American Numismatic Association Convention in Pittsburgh. I had been unable to find any tokens that I really liked and was beginning to think as far as my token collection went, the show had been a bust. On the last day, I asked a dealer that I didn't know and who had no tokens on display if he happened to have any British tokens tucked away. He replied that he had a few and pulled out a box from behind the table. There were some fairly nice tokens, but nothing quite up to 'snuff' when I ran across a heavily worn 1697 William III halfpenny stamped on the obverse "PEACE AND BLESSING" and on the reverse "BLESSING AND PEACE". When I told the dealer that I would be interested in it, he said, "Oh, I have another one if you are interested." It was the silver example that I have just described. I was shocked. I didn't know that any of the Spence countermarks were on silver. Spence was a poor man; would he be throwing shillings out the window? Perhaps he had made it for a special purpose or a friend or maybe for himself. I had no idea, but I did (a bit too quickly) ask, "How much for both?" He replied \$180 and I said, "Deal!" Unfortunately, I scurried away in my excitement before he changed his mind and didn't stop to ask where he had gotten it or even to note his name.

I would certainly be interested to know if my piece matches the description of the one from the Format listing that you mentioned in your article or if any other silver examples have been reported to you. Congratulations once again on your fine article.

Best regards,  
Harold Welch



Dear Harold

Thank you for yours. I certainly feel much closer to Spence through his countermarks rather than his tokens. I didn't know Waters had some, and so many; I wonder if he obtained them from Batty? Apart from the large number listed by Batty they seem very rare. Perhaps I have part of the Batty and Waters group... if not out there somewhere is an interesting group of marked pieces. I do know from speaking to John Whitmore, and also the former owner of the group that Whitmore sold to me, that there are other pieces in that collection. Perhaps I should prod Whitmore! I have collected countermarks on copper coins for over 30 years and have encountered very few examples in that period.

I think your silver piece is a blank, I am certain the one Format was.

I would suggest that the silver blank coincides with the issue of countermarked copper blanks. I would doubt Spence would have risked the sort of sanction that defacing the silver coinage carried.

I think the other marks indicate that the piece was also used as a slap token, and the man to ask about this is Gary Oddie,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about my fascinating friend Thomas Spence,

All the best  
Alan

## **Book Review**

### **The Token Collector's Companion By John Whitmore**

This book is one that will be used a great deal by collectors, I know I look at it often. If only one thing is collected, one may only want one section of it, but it is useful and informative still. John has compiled a great deal of information on a number of token subjects, and enclosed them in one volume.

The chapters include:

An introduction and historical review. Well written and interesting covering all token types.

A Token Tracer. This lists the legends, dates, no legend and date types, and covers all types of tokens, not just one type, allowing the searcher to find out just what it is and in what catalogue it is listed. This is a valuable tool, and much expanded from the "one type" listing, which allows you to find nearly any token.

Dalton and Hamer. An introduction, and a complete "in order" listing of all additions and corrections from 1917 to 2006. One can find them here without looking in several sources and front and back of books. A key to prices at auctions. Prices seen from 1998 to present for not common material. Good to have. a listing of the highest prices seen at auction for some rarities.

Unofficial farthings. A listing of additions and corrections to the Bell-Whitmore-Sweeny book that updated The original Bell listings. It also has a price guide, which John and Stella are very much qualified to write as they have sold huge numbers of them. This feature of the book is very important.

From this point, pages one through 150, Americans will find this book very useful. Most of the rest of the book is very much "local", and geared to the UK market, which of course it ought, as they say.

Included in the remainder are listings of Inn tokens, from West Midlands, Birmingham, Herts, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Dudley and N Worcs, and a check list on issuing inns. There is also an analysis of named stock dies on some tokens, as well as a British Inn token tracer. If one collects Inn tokens all of this information is very good, the token tracer once again of great value.

The inn token information may be found from PP 150 through PP 351.

The last is perhaps the singularly most important section of the book, a comprehensive index to Hawkins "Dictionary of Makers". Anyone researching tokens and the makers of them on any sort of serious bent probably has a copy of Hawkins at hand, and already knows that finding things in the book is a bit of a torture. Whitmore has solved this with a much needed index, which Hawkins did not include.

I shall admit to using this book to find information easily that before was scattered about if available at all. Token collectors in the UK and the US will find it handy, and often referred to for one thing or another. It is truly a fine companion to have on your shelf when information is needed.

Available from John Whitmore, Malvern, Worcs , and in the USA from Allan Davisson, or Bill McKivor.

**Bill McKivor CTCC #3**

## **The World Turned Upside Down**

By: John Fisher

If buttercups buzz'd after the bee,  
If boats were on land, churches at sea,  
If ponies rode men and if grass ate the cows,  
And cats should be chased into holes by the mouse,  
If the mamas sold their babies  
To the gypsies for half a crown;  
If summer were spring and the other way round,  
Then all the world would be upside down

By John Renfro Davis

Legend has it that this was the tune played by the British as they marched out of Yorktown after surrendering to the Continental Army of George Washington, effectively ending the Revolutionary War. Fact or fiction, we may never know. One fact we should all know is that some of the rarity ratings, as set forth by Dalton & Hamer in the Provincial Token Coinage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, may turn your world upside down.

My collection within a collection centers around the work of the die engraver, John Milton. Recently, I thought it would be nice to add another piece to my collection and decided to ask my friend and mentor, Bill McKivor, if he had a Kent 2 for sale or could acquire one for me. It is listed as scarce in D&H and I thought I might acquire it for about \$300 or so. To my amazement, Bill said that this piece is exceedingly rare and he hadn't seen one in years and if one did come to market, be prepared to shell out several thousand dollars. The only specimen listed as coming to auction in John Whitmore's "The Token Collectors Companion" was sold in April 2000 by Davissons Ltd for £1843. This sort of set my world upside down and I began to wonder how many other tokens were rated for rarity incorrectly in our bible, Dalton & Hamer. I would suspect that other novice collectors, such as myself, would be able to learn some useful realities of collecting this series.

I asked several dealers and token experts with years of experience to supply me with a list, for this article, of 10 tokens which are rated as common or scarce in D&H but are really rare or better and conversely, those rated as rare or better, which are, in actuality, only scarce or common. The results of this survey are surprising and illuminating, especially to the beginner or novice collector and probably those who have been in the hobby for years will be startled at some of the selections.

Experts who supplied the data below are as follows: (1) Peter Preston-Morley of Dix, Noonan and Webb (2) Jerry Bobbe of Cheapside Tokens (3) Bill McKivor of The Copper Corner and (4) Dr. Gary Sriro, who has compiled population listings of some 3500 Conder tokens on his CD software with a data base of some 40,000 entries. The number in ( ) after the token refer to the expert who chose it to list.



Rarity ratings for the sake of this article are as follows: common, 150 and above; scarce, 75 – 150; rare, 30 – 75; RR, 10 – 30; RRR, - less than 10.

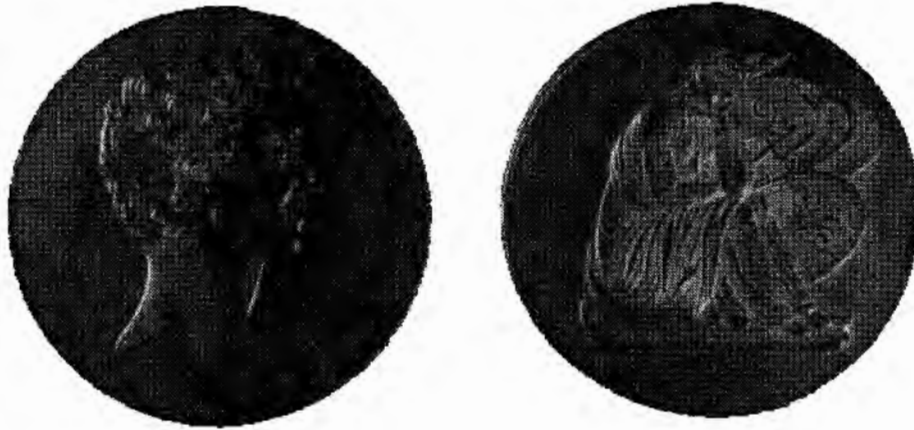
### Rare or Better in D&H Which are Common or Scarce



Warwickshire 6 image by Cheapside Tokens

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 12C (1);  
CUMBERLAND 2 (1);  
DURHAM 2 (1);  
HAMPSHIRE 11b (1), 29 (1);  
HEREFORDSHIRE 3(1);  
KENT 25 (2), 26 (2), 27 (2);  
LINCOLNSHIRE 3b (3);  
MIDDLESEX 15 (1), 117 (1), 140 (1), 248 (4), 471 (3)(4), 514 – rated RRR but only R (4); 535 (1), 698 (4), 916 (4), 979 (4), 1035 (4);  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 5 (1);  
SOMERSET 8 (1) (3) , 24 (1);  
STAFFORDSHIRE 13a (1) (3) (4);  
WARWICKSHIRE 6-rated scarce but very common (3) (4), 41 (4), 139a (4), 145 (2) (3), 245 (2), 246 (2), 247 (2), 248 (2), 249 (2)(4), 250 (2), 259(4), 286 (4), 295 (4), 304 (4), 315 (4);  
WILTSHIRE 21 (3);  
WORCESTERSHIRE 5 (4), 8b (4);  
YORKSHIRE 28 (4), 38 is the same as 35 (3);  
ANGLESEY 252c (2);  
ANGUSSHIRE 9 (3);  
PERTHSHIRE 4 (4).

## Common/Scarce in D&H which are Rare or Better



Ayrshire 7 image by Cheapside Tokens

BERKSHIRE 1a (2);  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 3 (2), 7c (2), 28 (1);  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE 11 (2)(3);  
CHESHIRE 3 (1), 78 (1);  
DURHAM 11 (2);  
ESSEX 9 (2), 43 (1);  
HAMPSHIRE 50 (2), 66 (3);  
HERTSFORDSHIRE 5 (1);  
KENT 2 (1) (2)(3);  
MIDDLESEX 13 (4), 217 (3), 227 (1) (2), 227a (1) (2), 308b (4), 308c (4), 308d (4), 350 (4), 372e (4), 402 (2), 416(4), 426 (4), 427 (4), 429 (4), 435 (4), 437a (4), 439 (2), 465 (2), 470 (4), 550 (4), 565 (4), 599 (2), 680 (2)(4), 681a (4), 685c (4) 686a (4) 746 (2), 761 (4), 785 – rated R but much rarer (2), 802 (2), 835 (2), 1125 (2);  
SUSSEX 40 (3);  
WARWICKSHIRE 21 (2), 32 (2), 33 (2), 63 (3), 63a (3), 131 (4), 213 (4), 361 (4), 461 (4), 466 (4), 470a (4);  
WILTSHIRE 21b (3);  
YORKSHIRE 3 (3), 65 (2)(3)(4);  
ANGUSSHIRE 8 (3), 23 (2);  
AYRSHIRE 7 (2);  
DUBLIN 28a (2) 386 (2);  
KINGS COUNTY 1 (2), 2 (2);  
WICKLOW 43a (4), 43e (4).

Readers are cautioned to make their own informed judgment regarding whether a token is more or less rare than D&H indicates, as there seems to be few absolutes when it comes to this judgment of rarity. Let your own experience be your guide. Take the above list as a well informed guide but not necessarily absolute.

I also consulted the Fixed Price List of the Spingarn Collection of Conder Tokens issued in 2001 and found the following notations by Mr. Spingarn: BUCKS 7a – ‘much rarer than D&H indicates’; MIDDLESEX 446 and 521b – ‘rarer than D&H indicates’. Also,

MIDDLESEX 835 'probably should be RR'; NORFOLK 53a – 'probably rarer than D&H indicates'; NORTHUMBERLAND 7 – 'understated rarity in D&H'; STAFFORDSHIRE 13a – 'may not be quite as rare as RR'; WARWICKSHIRE 1 – 'common in D&H although only 72 struck per Bell', 32 – 'should be RR not scarce'.

An excellent source of information about rare tokens is John Whitmore's "The Token Collectors Companion". It lists auction results of most Conder rarities. Also valuable are auction catalogs, such as Dix Noonan and Webb, Davissons and Spink along with prices realized, which may be obtained over the internet.

Readers may wish to annotate their copy of D&H with these rarity ratings. While you are at it, as Jerry Bobbe points out, there are other mistakes in D&H as follows:

- 1) Page 71, D&H 56 is not unique, there are two.
- 2) Page 146, under RRR, should read #448 not 488.
- 3) Page 152, the scarce and common listings are in Atkins' numbers and are actually D&H 513, 514, 517 and 480.
- 4) Page 153, under common, should read #522a not #522.
- 5) Page 167, under RR, should read #691a and not #691.
- 6) Page 227, under scarce, should include #8.
- 7) Page 229, under RRR, should include #25.
- 8) Page 288, under RR, should include #255 not #250.
- 9) Page 315, under RRR, should omit #21 which is common and instead include #21a and 21b.
- 10) Page 415, under RRR, should omit #9 bis as that token is in actuality Middlesex 398 and is only rare.
- 11) Warwickshire 145 is merely a die filled #144 and all examples show some trace of the missing button hole.

Bill McKivor points out that the 1990 and later copies of D&H do not show rarity ratings for page 134. These are as follows (taken from the 1967 version): 338 and 341, unique (in the British Museum); 336, 337a, 339a, RR; 336a, 337, 339, 340, R; 342 Scarce; 336b Common

Remember also that even common issues, if in exceptional condition may also be rare, especially those which were made for general circulation.

The rarity estimates of the larger series (Wilkinson, John of Gaunt, Anglesey, Lady Godiva, Macclesfield etc) probably contain lots of errors. Most collectors only collect one example of these series and rarity is thus harder to judge.

Although I have pointed out many errors, for the most part, the listings in D&H still hold true for today. If anyone reading this article wishes to cite other examples from their own experience, I would be pleased to hear from you and perhaps, we can expand our list in future issues of this Journal. Contact John Fisher at [fisher1835@yahoo.com](mailto:fisher1835@yahoo.com).

**SIR JAMES COLLETT AND THE COURT OF CHIVALRY**  
*by Robert Thompson*

At the March 1968 meeting of the British Numismatic Society Mr R. N. P. Hawkins exhibited a sketch of a lead token on behalf of Major F. Pridmore, the expert on the coins of the British Commonwealth. Pridmore had hoped that its "blatant wrongness" as a token of the British Isles might indicate a plantation token from a British colony, such as Jamaica.<sup>1</sup> The main series of British tokens are dated up to 1672, and then on from 1787. These last constitute what Britons uncontroversially describe as Eighteenth-century Tokens, but some Americans designate (bewilderingly) as "Conder Tokens". What could be controversial is the century to which this token belongs, but I leave that to others.

*Obv.* \*S<sup>R</sup>:JAMES\*COLLETT around I·C in script  
*Rev.* HIS HALFE PENNY around 1700  
21mm, 14.9g.



It is presumably this specimen which Dr Mitchiner illustrates at 1:1 and at 2:1 (but reading COLLET).<sup>2</sup> Thanks to the Librarian at London's Guildhall Library Roy Hawkins was able to present some biographical information about Sir James Collett (c.1645-1711), including his membership of the London Fruiterers' Company "which is the sole but perhaps sufficient indication of his having had a commercial connection". Philip Mernick has now included Collett's token in a valuable article which brings together a previously unrecognised series of Fruiterers' tokens.<sup>3</sup> I remembered the Hawkins (Pridmore) exhibit when seeking information about token-issuers in Volume 107 of the Harleian Society (established 1869 for the publication of unedited manuscripts relating to genealogy, family history, heraldry, and parish registers), and since Phil Mernick refers to what I found there as "remarkable documentation" without saying what it is, and since few readers will have the volume on their shelves, I thought I might expand his reference into a note, brief though it is.<sup>4</sup>

The medieval Court of Chivalry escaped the nineteenth-century law reformers because it had not sat for a century and a half. It had not been abolished, however, and it was revived in 1954 when the Manchester Palace of Varieties presumed to display the arms of

the City of Manchester.<sup>5</sup> That led to an examination of the records of the court, the publication of material of genealogical and heraldic interest by George Squibb, and more recently of cases from 1634-40 which may be the best collection of seventeenth-century insults.<sup>6</sup>

James Collett as one of the Sheriffs of London was knighted by King William III on 17 November 1697 at Kensington Palace, in the royal bedchamber.<sup>7</sup> In the 1707 case abstracted by Squibb, *Lloyd v. Collet* was promoted by Nathaniel Lloyd LL.D., Queen's Advocate, against Sir James Collet [*sic*] of the King's Arms Yard, Coleman Street, London, knight, for unlawfully having arms to which he was not entitled painted on his coach "to the prejudice of the nobility and gentry of the kingdom of England". Collett admitted this, but when his case came to trial on 11 June Thomas Ward, citizen and upholster [upholsterer] of London, testified that Collett:

"had for several weeks past been in Kent upon extraordinary occasions relating to his trade as a fruiterer, it being the season of the year for getting in and disposing of several sorts of summer fruits, and that it would be a great prejudice to him then to come up to London".

In Trinity Term Collett applied to the Court of Queen's Bench for a prohibition, relying on Magna Charta etc. As with so many of these cases, no judgment is known, and the same applies to *Lloyd v. Collet* (No. 2), for unlawfully displaying similar arms on a monument in St Magnus church near London Bridge, set up in memory of Thomas Collett (1631-1703), late Deputy of Bridge ward. These cases demonstrate the importance then attached to the proper use of armorial bearings. The first case incidentally documents Collett's trade of fruiterer, which Roy Hawkins discovered, and confirms that Collett had orchards in Kent.

grocer in London and great-grandson of the Protector, and unsurprisingly they called their eldest son Oliver Cromwell.<sup>9</sup>

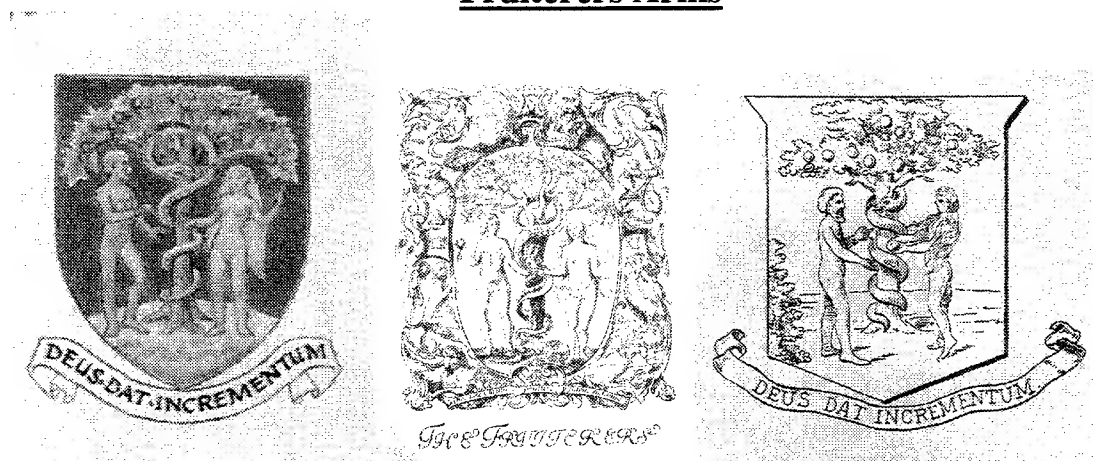
As Phil Mernick mentioned, Collett's second wife was alternatively named Eleanor. Collett occurs on the Association Oath Roll of 1696, and in 1708 was an unsuccessful candidate for Alderman.<sup>10</sup>

It can be confirmed also that Collett died in his sixty-sixth year, and was buried in Bunhill Fields, or at least, in the Dissenters Burial Ground near Moorfields, as evident from the monumental inscription once on his black marble tomb supported with brick which was copied in August 1712 by Richard Rawlinson.<sup>11</sup> There is also more to be learned from the 1695 assessments under the Duties on Marriages etc. Act, if one could identify the future Sir James amongst a number entries of the name name,<sup>12</sup> and from a House of Lords petition against Collett and John Conold, Clerk, by Edward Spencer, gent., and Robert Sprackling on 18 December 1703, if one could learn the cause of it.<sup>13</sup> There may well be much more, e.g. Prof. De Krey lists James Collet amongst Whig party leaders with the occupation of Merchant: Iberia.<sup>14</sup> Perhaps he deserves a full biography.



1. R. N. P. Hawkins, "A sketch of a 17th-century token in the collection of Major Pridmore", *British Numismatic Journal*, 37 (1968), 212-13.
2. Michael Mitchiner, *Jetons, Medalets and Tokens*, Vol. 3 (Sanderstead, 1998), p. 1825, no. 5472.
3. P. H. Mernick, "Fruiterers' tokens: an unrecognised series of London artefacts", *British Numismatic Journal*, 77 (2007), 286-92, pls. 4-5.
4. England. Court of Chivalry, *Reports of Heraldic Cases in the Court of Chivalry 1623-1732*, prepared from the records of the Court by G. D. Squibb (London, 1956). The Publications of the Harleian Society, Vol. 107.
5. G. D. Squibb, *The High Court of Chivalry* (Oxford, 1959).
6. England. Court of Chivalry. *Cases in the High Court of Chivalry 1634-1640*, ed. Richard P. Cust and Andrew J. Hopper (London, 2006). The Publications of the Harleian Society, new series, Vol. 18.
7. Peter Le Neve, *Le Neve's Pedigrees of the Knights...*, ed. George W. Marshall (London, 1873), p. 459, see also 518. The Publications of the Harleian Society, Vol. 8.
8. J. R. Woodhead, *The Rulers of London 1660-1689: a biographical record of the Aldermen and Common Councilmen of the City of London* (London, 1965 [1966]).
9. Joseph Hunter, *Familiae minorum gentium* (London, 1894-96), i. 415.
10. Percival Boyd, [Inhabitants of London], Society of Genealogists MS, nos. 19640, 19643.
11. Thomas Hearne, *Remarks and Collections* (Oxford, 1885-1921), iv. 188.
12. [London. Corporation of the City. Library]. *London Inhabitants within the Walls 1695*; introduction by D. V. Glass (London, 1966).
13. *House of Lords Journal*, 17 (1701-5), 353-4.
14. Gary S. De Krey, *London and the Restoration, 1659-1683* (Cambridge, 2005), p. 415.

### **Fruiterers Arms**



### **A Badge Presented to a Master of the Company of Fruiterers in 1778**



## **Dates now set for the first British-American Token Congress**

Seattle, WA May 14, 15 16 2009.

The British token Congress has long been a destination for many British token collectors. Held every year in different locations in the UK it is a collector-driven venue with talks, food, fun, a bourse, and more. Probably the best feature is meeting many serious fellow collectors, like minded folk who become friends for life.

Though the Conder Token Collector's Club has been in existence for 10 years, no Congress has been undertaken in America until now, and we are happy to announce that there will be one in Seattle, May 14, 15, and 16, 2009. It shall be at the Red Lion Hotel, 1415 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, downtown Seattle.

The Congress will be based on the British model, an opening and a dinner on Thursday, 14 May, followed by a program to be determined, and a chance to get to know your fellow attendees. Though substantially British in scope this time around, it is wished to get token enthusiasts from all over the US and Canada as well as some from the UK to come and show and discuss tokens of all kinds.

Friday will be a full day of talks and token lore, three meals and breaks, followed by a Friday night bourse which is open to all attendees. Tables for dealers and collectors are included in the cost of the Congress. Saturday will start with breakfast, and the talks with one break runs until 1 PM, the end of the meeting.

Seattle is a wonderful place for a vacation or a holiday, as they are known in the UK, and there will be packets sent out to the attendees who sign up to give them some idea of the city, waterfront, restaurants, boat trips, Victoria and Vancouver getaways, shopping, and much more. A spouse or significant other would not be bored, with the hotel within walking distance to nearly everything and the weather is usually mild in May.

Here are the details needed to sign up----

Dates: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 14, 15, 16, in 2009.

Location----The Red Lion Hotel, 1415 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA.

Cost: The Congress, all talks, 5 meals, the bourse, and more \$395 for the event.

Rooms will be a separate cost and will be arranged directly with the hotel.

The limit is 100 people, and remarkably the Congress is already half full with only word of mouth and CTCC Journal advertising, so please, if interested, let us know as soon as you can. We shall be reserving space in order of reservation received. If you wish to come but are not sure this far in advance you can do so, call anyway and we will put you on the list for information. A deposit will be required by fall 2008.

Many well known collectors, authors, dealers, museum curators, etc have already signed on, and we would love to see you as well.

The Congress is supported by the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association, the Conder Token Collector's Club, and sponsored by the London auction house Dix Noonan and Webb.

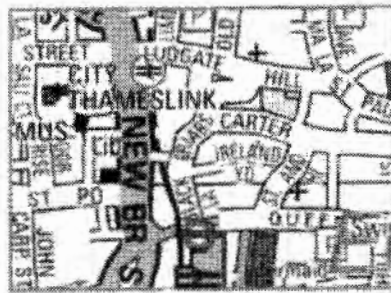
For further information and costs, please contact the Congress organizer, Bill McKivor, at [copperman@thecoppercorner.com](mailto:copperman@thecoppercorner.com) or his phone (206) 244-8345, or Scott Loos, [scottloos@msn.com](mailto:scottloos@msn.com) or his phone (425) 831-8789.

Who knows, this may be the start of something big-----

Bill McKivor, Event Chairman.

Tom Fredette

The friars (or monks, as they preferred) came first - then the actors and the acting. If one looks at a map of London proper, one can locate along the banks of the Thames an area of the city known as Blackfriars near by the Victoria Embankment. In



addition to the previously posed questions, would also be the wish to know how the area came to be so named. Once again, R.C. Bell offers enlightenment. In Specious Tokens he writes:

One may assume then, that the figure appearing on the obverse of Middlesex 257, which Bell describes as "A friar facing left and holding a crucifix in his outstretched right hand" may in fact commemorate a Dominican monk.

## The Blackfriars Theatre

As a further help in making the connection between the acting profession and "Blackfriars" the internet (as it almost always is now) is of some help. A William Shakespeare site clarifies information about our topic thus:

The Blackfriars Theatre was located in the City of London on the site of the dissolved 13th century Dominican monastery. The original monastery was built in 1275 and located between the River Thames and Ludgate Hill. The monastery estates came to be commonly known as "Blackfriars" due to the black robes worn by Dominican monks...In 1538 the monastery was closed due to the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII... In 1576 some of the buildings were leased...for play rehearsals and private performances...This was, therefore, the first Blackfriars theatre...(Eventually) William Shakespeare and others became part owners of what was to become Blackfriars Playhouse.



## The Blackfriars Theatre



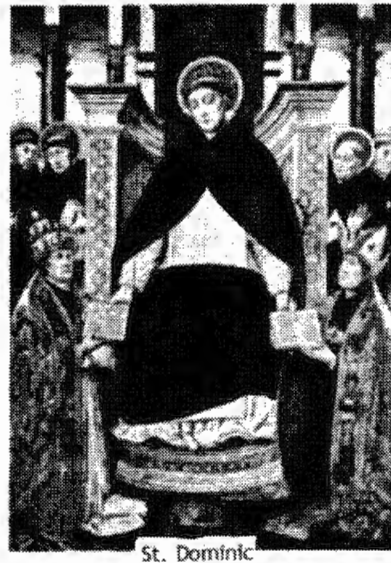
The connection that is made between acting troupes in recent times and the late eighteenth-century token is one of commemoration and remembrance it would seem, accounting for the inscription "Payable in Blackfriars London" on Middlesex 257. It denotes a place of origin and the little friar on the obverse tells us the historical connection.



Arthur W. Waters briefly describes Middlesex 257 as "Made for circulation by Skidmore from dies by Jacobs." This is not much of a description of a token which is a particular favorite of this writer not only because of the life-like aspects of the depicted friar but because of the historical connection between the area of London which bears the name of the religious order which the small figure represents and the suggestions it makes to us about William Shakespeare probably the best known playwright of any century.

Source

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/the-blackfriars-theatre-picture.htm>



St. Dominic

founder of the Order of Friars Preachers (Dominicans), a religious order of mendicant friars with a universal mission of preaching, a centralized organization and government, and a great emphasis on scholarship.



William Shakespeare on Msx 928 by Cheapside Tokens



## **THE CONDER ERA – 1790**

Michael Grogan

Cheshire copper master Charles Roe continued his vast issue of tokens and they became one of the most counterfeited of all the Conder series. This image of Cheshire 25 is courtesy of Dave Stuart.



### **World Events in 1790**

- President Washington delivers 1st State of the Union address
- The US Supreme Court convenes for 1st time
- U.S. copyright law enacted
- The shoelace is invented
- Rhode Island becomes last of original 13 colonies to ratify US Constitution
- 1st U.S. patent granted, to Samuel Hopkins for a potash process
- 1st U.S. census, population of 3,939,214
- Sweden and Russia sign Peace of Verela
- Benjamin Franklin dies at the age of 84
- Louis XVI of France accepts a constitutional monarchy.
- Prime Minister of Great Britain William Pitt refuses to recognize Belgian independence.
- Georgetown, Maryland becomes federal capital of the United States.

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## THE TOKEN EXCHANGE AND MART



**OUR RULES:** CTCC members, in good standing, are cordially invited to dispatch their articles and advertisements to the CTCC editor for publication in the JOURNAL. Articles are always needed and appreciated. Articles do not have to be camera ready, but I appreciate it when they are. Articles are always published free of charge for the benefit of the membership. Advertisements are needed and appreciated just as much. Ads up to twelve lines are **FREE!** Full-page ads are \$75.00; one half-page ads are \$37.50. Ads larger than the free twelve lines **must be camera ready.** All paid ads **must be paid for when submitted;** thus, eliminating the possibility of confusion and the need for costly, unnecessary, and time-consuming billings and follow up. Ads submitted without full payment will not be accepted or published. Ads or articles may be either accepted or rejected at the discretion of the editor. Only members can participate in the journal or other Club activities. The Club rules are designed to be simple and few, please comply with them. **The deadline for the FALL 2008 issue is September 15, 2008.** Journals are issued quarterly. Your articles and ads must be sent to the editor, Michael Grogan 6501 Middleburg Ct Mobile AL 36608 email mngrogan@comcast.net. The only requirement for membership is the payment of an annual membership fee. You will be billed again after you have received four issues of the journal. The "Conder" Token Collector's Club reserves the right to accept or reject (without explanation) any application for membership. The "Conder" Token Collector's Club, reserves the right to revise these rules at any time in accordance with our by-laws. **ANNUAL DUES: \$25.00 U.S. Membership - £20 U.K Membership.- \$35 Non U.S. or U.K.Membership.**

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Also looking for medals/tokens of die engraver John Milton and any material dealing with the OP Riots of 1809 and the Kemble family. Thanks for your help!

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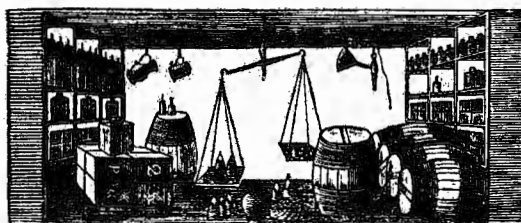
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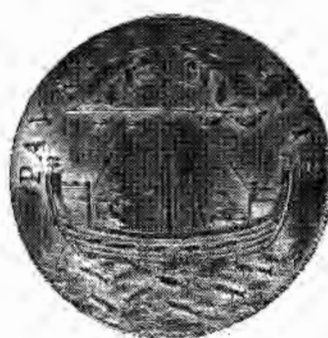
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